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ACTION ARA-10

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NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 031920Z JAN 75 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1618 INFO OSD/ISA USCINCSO

CONFIDENTIAL SANTIAGO 0059

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, CI

SUBJ: REACTION TO U.S. ARMS BAN

- 1. MILGP HAS RECEIVED REPORT FROM CHILEAN OFFICER WHO WAS PRESENT AT JANUARY 2 MEETING OF ARMY GENERAL STAFF, UNDER GENERAL BRAVO, WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS OF INTEREST TO US WERE DISCUSSED:
- 2. STATUS OF MILGRP: ARMY STAFF RAISED QUESTION WHETHER GOC SHOULD REACT TO U.S. ARMS BAN BY REQUESTING TERMINATION OF USMILGRP. GENERAL PINOCHET QUICKLY DISPOSED OF THIS ITEM. HE SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO MAKE ANY PUNITIVE RESPONSE TO U.S. ACTION, AND NOTED THAT PRESENT MILGRP MEMBERS WERE BOTH COMPETENT AND ACQUAINTED WITH CHILE AND THAT THEIR DEPARTURE WOULD CREATE A HIATUS OF UNCERTAIN DURATION, INEVITABLY FOLLOWED BY DELAYS AND DIFFICULTIES IN CONSTITUTING A NEW MILGRP CAPABLE OF PERFORMING AT THE LEVEL OF THE PRESENT ONE. HE CONCLUDED THAT NO CHANGE WOULD BE MADE.
- 3. PRESS TREATMENT OF ARMS CUT-OFF: PRESIDENT PINOCHET CONFIDENTIAL

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OBSERVED THAT THE FACT THAT THE CHILEAN MEDIA HAVE SCARCELY

MENTIONED THE ARMS BAN IN THE FAA IS THE RESULT OF GOC REQUESTS TO THE MEDIA AND REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. AMBASSADOR BE INFORMED TO THIS EFFECT.

4. COMMENT: NEWS STORIES ON THE ARMS CUT-OFF HAVE BEEN BURIED IN THE INTERNATIONAL CABLE PAGES OF THE PRESS AND THE MEDIA HAVE AVOIDED ANY COMMENT. THIS STRONGLY SUGGESTS THE MEDIA ARE RESPONDING TO GOC GUIDANCE. POPPER

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